



LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2023

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MARCH:

Week of March 5:

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

Week of March 12:

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

Week of March 19:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Week of March 26:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MARCH



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world.

When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. ***It's time to share.***

Look for offering envelopes in the Sunday Bulletins in March or give online by putting "OGHS" in the comments section (see details below).

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE



Online giving is a new option available at Salem. Scan this QR code or use the following web address:
<https://salemchurch.breezechms.com/give/online>



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3: Chad Malueg, Lars Winterle
- 4: Laura Yurs
- 6: Steve Sundby
- 7: Hugh Hauser, Michael Moll
- 8: Donald Hefty
- 9: Judy Skupien, Elaina Durnen
- 10: Gary Nechvatal
- 14: Carla Baez, Eden Westphal
- 16: Isaac Worley, Oliver Gauthier
- 17: Anna Pundt
- 21: Kevin Booth
- 22: Halle Borelli
- 24: John Bass, Heather Thoma
- 26: Clarice Dassow
- 27: Diane Triplett

*Let the church office know if we missed your birthday.

WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING MARCH 9

George will be presenting an updated committee organization chart the Council approved at its February meeting. He will also give us insight into the potential long-term structure that the Council will look to move towards in 2024. Based on our conversations as a Guild, we shared these challenges with George. He wants to offer his thoughts, provide recommendations (e.g., name change) and give the next steps in moving some of our functions to this new structure, so we are no longer a separate entity and are under Salem's umbrella.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Salem is pleased to make available scholarships for current church members for expenses during the first year of college, trade school, or technical college. To receive one of these scholarships, interested persons must complete an application form by April 1, 2023. Contact the church office to receive an application form should you wish one.

Please note this is not limited to high school seniors. Older adults who are planning to attend college, trade school, or technical college are likewise encouraged to apply.

UPCOMING PULPIT SUPPLY

March 5	Youth Sunday
March 12	Lisa Hart
March 19	
March 26	Jessica Taft
April 2	Katya Ouchakof
April 9	Lisa Hart
April 16	Kathleen Owns
April 23	Larry Balleine
April 30	Katya Ouchakof

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

These Days, Our Daily Bread and *The Upper Room* devotional booklets are provided by the Women's Guild and available on the wall inside the main entrance to the church and in the information box near the outdoor labyrinth. Please help yourself.



NOTHING TO HIDE

Mental Illness in the Family



A PHOTO-TEXT EXHIBIT FROM FAMILY DIVERSITY PROJECTS

This photo-text exhibit presents photographs taken by Gigi Kaeser and interviews conducted by Jean Beard and Peggy Gillespie, with families whose lives are affected by schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, major depression, anxiety disorders, and other brain disorders. The photos and text in this exhibit dispel harmful stereotypes, misconceptions, and myths about mental illness.

Exhibit and Speaker Series

February 19 – March 26

Open: Sunday 5:30-8pm, Wednesday 6pm-8pm, Friday
11am-1pm, or by appointment



SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sarah Pundt, Director of Christian Education
608-692-3239 or spundt@salemchurchverona.org

Sunday School

Sunday school is provided for all ages every Sunday morning 9-10am from September 18, 2022-May 21, 2023. Nursery care is provided during the Sunday school hour for children ages 6 mos-2 years and during worship for children ages 6 months-5 years. ****Transportation and childcare are available for all other events upon request. Contact Sarah Pundt for more information.****

Age Group	Location
Nursery (Under age 3)	Lower Level
Pre-K (age 3)-grade 5	Lower Level
Middle/High School	2nd Floor Classroom
Adults	1st Floor Conference Rm

Christian Education Calendar

March

- 5 @9am Sunday School
@10:15 Children's Choir sings in Worship
- 12 @9am Sunday School
- 19 @8:45-11:30am Nursery Care Provided
@9am Sunday School
- 26 @9am Sunday School
- 28 @6pm Board of Christian Ed

Children's Choir will be singing during worship on March 5 (Youth Sunday).

Church Nursery News

March 19: Nursery care will be provided during the Sunday school hour and worship .

Please welcome (back) Payton Corning as our new nursery care provider. Payton volunteered in the nursery for many years in middle and high school. Now in college, Payton will be working in the nursery one or two times per month. We are still not able to provide nursery care every week, but we are working toward a consistent schedule of at least once per month. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you are willing to serve as a volunteer in the nursery.

Adult Sunday School

All are welcome! Please join us in the first-floor conference room as we discuss a variety of topics related to Bible study, Christian living, social justice, and the church. Hybrid class options are available for this who wish to join remotely (contact Sarah Pundt).

The Mysteries of Mental Illness

March 5, 12, 19 & 26 @ 9am

As part of our "Nothing to Hide" exhibit, we will work toward greater understanding of mental illness and the people who struggle with these challenges. Using the PBS series "Mysteries of Mental Illness" we will look at the history of mental illness, the rise and fall of asylums, who is "normal"?, and new frontiers of understanding and treatments of mental illness. Please join us as we live into our Open and Affirming Covenant to understand and accept all people.

Women of the Bible

April 16-May 21

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMING

The following Christian Education offerings are group events for everyone in the congregation. Regular Sunday school classes will not be held on these dates.

April

- 2 Palm Sunday Program
- 9 Easter Sunday-no class

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Lenten Mission Project 2023: *Penny for Your Thoughts* February 26-April 2

Invest in your mental health and invest in Family Diversity Projects.

PURPOSE: Raise money for *Family Diversity Projects* while practicing good mental health.

PROJECT: Focus on your mental health by practicing daily wellness habits from the Lenten Daily Calendar. Try a new challenge every day and use the Bible Focused Emotion Wheel to explore human feelings throughout scripture. For each activity that you try, consider adding some spare change to the container. The calendars and coin boxes are available in fellowship hall.



DISCLAIMER: Mental health and mental illness are not the same thing. We all have mental health and some of us struggle with mental illness. Diagnosed mental illness requires professional care. These activities are meant to encourage good mental health habits and do not imply that those with mental illness simply need to practice better self-care.

FB4K

Last fall, Salem hosted two bike collection stations to benefit FB4K. In total, we collected approximately 120 bikes! The FB4K Madison workshop is now open, and they are looking for volunteers to help repair and clean bicycles for the spring bike giveaway. Interested? Visit the FB4KMadison website to learn more or to volunteer. Work teams are welcome so grab your friends and have fun! They are also looking to collect more bikes before the spring bike giveaway. The demand for bikes is much higher than their current inventory. Please visit the FB4K website to learn about bike donations or to volunteer. <https://fb4kmadison.org/>

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Weekly Worship Workshop

March 9 @ 7pm

Led by Sarah Pundt

This workshop will explore how we deepen our personal experience and understanding of weekly worship, while also contributing meaningfully to the congregation. Our first gathering focused on the many tasks that need to be completed on Sunday mornings before worship. Please see the list below of opportunities to be involved.

At our March 9 gathering we will learn about Liturgy and the Lectionary. Join us as we explore what they are and how we use them during Sunday worship.

Small Groups

For more information about any of our small groups, or to start a new group, please contact Sarah Pundt. All groups welcome visitors and you do not need to be a Salem member to participate. Please join us. All are welcome!

Parents Promise March 2 @ 7pm

This group is for parents of tweens, teens, and young adults. Join this circle of parents for conversation and fellowship as we support each other in raising young people of faith. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome! We will meet in the church library on the first floor.

Koinonia Special Guest: Ellen Warsaw March 16 @ 7pm

All women of Salem and visitors are invited for a time of reflection and fellowship. This group meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm. Ellen Warsaw (Sarah Pundt's sister) will be with us for an informal discussion related to our Nothing to Hide exhibit and program. Ellen will also be speaking at our NTH speaker series on March 19.

Couples Group?

There is interest in starting a couples group at Salem. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you are interested in learning more and watch future newsletters for more information.

The UCC Beyond Salem

The UCC Beyond Salem For information on UCC Resources and Events, use the following links to access programming of particular interest.

UCC Digital Programming

<https://www.ucc.org/programming-webinars/>

UCC News Digest

<https://www.ucc.org/news/>

WI Conference Life Newsletter

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Wisconsin-Conference-Life-Newsletter-for-Feb--15--2023.html?soid=1102675987700&aid=FttL3eJDajk>

UCCI Camps

Registration has opened for the many summer offerings for all ages! <https://ucci.org/>

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Sarah Pundt, Interim Director of Youth Ministry
608-692-3239 or spundt@salemchurchverona.org

March 2023

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Youth Opportunities at Salem

Grades 6-12

All Are Welcome!

Youth and parents are encouraged to join our Salem UCC Youth Ministry Mighty Network. This is an online platform that allows us to have all our youth information, events, rsvp options, pictures, prayer requests, and discussions in a single place on a private network. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

Youth Group

Youth grades 6-12 gather twice per month for fellowship, faith, and fun. Gatherings take place at Salem UCC unless otherwise noted. Friends are always welcome!

Youth Sunday

Feb. 5 @ 6:30

A group of 10 youth have been planning the youth Sunday service "Keep Faith Afloat". Participating youth should attend the run-through practice on March 4 @ 9-11am and arrive at church on March 5 @ 8am.

Mission Trip Registration Deadline & Meeting

(for youth and parents) **March 12 @ 11:15am**

We will have a brief (~15 minutes) meeting immediately following worship to discuss the mission trip to St. Paul, MN June 23-26. If you plan to participate in the trip please be at this meeting or indicate your interest by emailing Sarah Pundt.

Youth and Mental Health *(for youth and parents)*

March 12 @ 6:30

As part of our Nothing to Hide exhibit and series on Mental Health, we are offering a special workshop for youth and their parents. Representatives from NAMI Dane County (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will host a program for youth grades 6-12 aimed at reducing stigma and starting a conversation about mental health challenges for this age group. Parents and adults who care about youth (grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, mentors, and others) are invited to their own workshop in another room at the same time. Youth and parents will leave with resources designed to help them continue the conversation surrounding mental health at home.

YOUTH CALENDAR

March

- 4** @ 9-11am Youth Sunday Run-Through
- 5** @ 8am Youth Sunday
- 12** @ 11:15am Mission Trip Meeting
- @ 6:30 Youth & Mental Health
(for parents and youth)

FB4K Mission Opportunity TBD
June 23-26 SALT Trip

RESCHEDULED!

Overnight Lock-In

April 21 -22 (5pm-9am)

YOUTH MISSION

FB4K

It's the season for fixing and cleaning bicycles at the FB4K mission workshop. We have a group of youth interested in helping again this year and we plan on having a volunteer afternoon or evening soon. Kristin Runnheim has volunteered to organize this event. Please watch the Mighty Network for details.

MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6PM - BRC 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	2 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Parent's Promise	3	4
5 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 6:30PM - Speaker on Loss, Grief and Trauma	6 Eve - Boy Scouts	7	8 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	9 1:30PM - Women Guild 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Weekly Worship Workshop	10 5:30PM - Family Pizza and Movie night - <i>Inside Out</i>	11
12 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 11:15AM - Youth Mission Trip Meeting 6:30PM - Youth and Mental Health	13 Eve - Boy Scouts	14 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	15 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	16 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)	17	18 6:30PM - Movie night - <i>As Good as it Gets</i> (PG13)
19 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 6:30-8PM - "Nothing to Hide" Speaker	20 Eve - Boy Scouts	21	22 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	23 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	24	25
26 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 2PM - Speaker on Mental Health and the Elderly	27 Eve - Boy Scouts	28 6PM - BOCE Meeting				

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2023

YOUTH SUNDAY - MARCH 5

A group of 10 youth have been planning the Youth Sunday service "Keep Faith Afloat".

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP SERVICES

Website: www.salemchurchverona.org/online-worship

YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@salemucc_verona

"NOTHING TO HIDE" PHOTO EXHIBIT

Photo exhibit open hours:

Wednesdays 6-8pm and Fridays 11am-1pm

See website for additional events

CONGREGATIONAL WORKSHOP

March 9, 7PM - Weekly Worship Workshop

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

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Music Director:

Dawn Lingard

Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

George Adams

An Open
and Affirming
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Living Out God's Love
**SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

